'Topaz' Suit Ruling

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LOS ANGELES—Former French intelligence official Philippe de Vosjoli, 51, won a $352,000 judgment yesterday against author Leon Uris, who wrote a fictionalized version of De Vosjoli's life in the novel "Topaz."

De Vosjoli, a figure in the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, was also awarded costs by Superior Court Judge Howard Schmidt.

De Vosjoli had sued Uris, best-selling author of "Exodus' and a number of other novels, for half the royalties and film rights in accordance with a contract they signed in 1965.

The Frenchman estimated that the book had yielded nearly $1 million in revenues but told the court he had received only $65,000.

Uris, 47, admitted the existence of the contract but said De Vosjoli had violated it himself by selling the story to "Life" and other magazines, hurting the sales of the book.

De Vosjoli, then head of the French secret service in Washington, resigned from his post after his protests about alleged Soviet infiltration in the French secret service were ignored by the De Gaulle government, he said.

His lawyers asserted during the hearing that De Vosjoli, now living in Miami, found that information he sent to Paris passed into the hands of the Russians.

"Topaz" is based largely on the trips a French agent made to Cuba which produced critical information about Soviet missiles for the Kennedy government during the missile crisis.